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Chemical Industry (3 April 1951)

One of the chemical industry's principal tasks under the Five-Year Plan is to increase the production of sulfuric acid. To this end it is necessary for all plants to be utilized to full capacity. The Wolfen Dyestuff Factory's installation for producing sulfuric acid from gypsum, which has been dismantled, reportedly is to be rebuilt, because the raw materials for this process do not have to be imported but are obtained as by-products. However, this reconstruction work does not appear to have been started yet.

New installations for the production of caustic soda are supposed to be put into operation at Bernburg and Stassfurt in 1951, to increase the output of this item. It is hoped that the chlorine obtained as a by-product in the production of caustic soda can be exported.

Under the Five-Year Plan the production of synthetic resins and plastics is to be further expanded to the point where high-grade, temperature-resistant plastic materials can be produced. New plastics derived from phenol and urea are to be developed, and also, since phenol is in critically short supply, new types are to be made from cresols and xylenols which contain little phenol.

The chemical industry must produce larger quantities of caprolactam, to increase the production of artificial fibers, especially perlon.

The production of fatty acids from domestic raw materials is to be increased 100 percent during the next 5 years, and it is also planned to expand the paraffin oxidation plant at the Luetzkendorf Petroleum Works.

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Requirements of gases are to be covered by expanding existing plants and building new ones. In particular, an increase is planned in the production of oxygen and of the rare gases, which are used to fill incandescent and fluorescent lamps.

The only Catalysis Research Institute in Germany, at the University of Rostock, was started in spring 1950 and was completed in rough form by the end of January 1951. The inorganic section of this institute is to be under the direction of Prof Dr Langenbeck and is to do research on basic problems of catalysis. The organic section is to be under Prof Dr Riemaecker, and in the beginning it will be primarily concerned with determining the conditions under which catalysts are to be used in the manufacture of synthetic fats. The institute is to start operations in fall 1951.

The German National Soap-Making School in Freital bei Dresden, with facilities for 50 students, is reportedly the only one of its kind in Europe. In 1950 it was made subordinate to the Ministry for Light Industry. It trains chemical workers, laboratory assistants, and other such skilled workers to become soap experts.

At the end of 1950 the former Solvay plant in Westeregeln was turned over to the VVB (Federation of People-Owned Enterprises) Alcid, in trusteeship. Among other things, the plant produces bromine salts, the wood preservative xylamon, ammonium chloride, caustic soda, hydrogen gas, chlorine gas, and soda lye. The electrolytic baths, which had been shut down, have again been put into operation to cover the textile industry's large requirements of the last two items mentioned above. The plant employs about 700 persons and is training 60 apprentices. The other two Solvay plants which are still in operation, in Osternienburg and Buchenau, were also turned over to VVB Alcid in trusteeship. The principal product at Osternienburg is caustic soda; at Buchenau, soda.

Excavating for the waterworks for the new Bernburg Soda Factory was completed by the end of January 1951. Construction of the compressor plant was to start early in February. The foundations for the cable railway also were almost completed by the end of January. Because of the great shortage of soda, the soda plants in Bernburg and Stassfurt have been declared key plants under the Five-Year Plan. It is hoped that soda production can be doubled by the end of 1951.

Construction of a new phosphorus furnace has been started at the SAG (Soviet Corporation) Piesteritz Nitrogen Plant. The furnace is to be put into operation in 1951, and reportedly will enable the plant to cover all phosphorus requirements for the Soviet Zone and to export phosphoric acid. A new carbide furnace is to be built in 1952. The two projects will enable the plant to increase its production by 30 percent in comparison with 1950.

In December 1950 the people-owned Hirschfelde Electrochemical Plant reportedly sttained the highest production of carbide since its founding. Under the Five-Year Plan the plant is to be expanded considerably, and its oxygen, acetylene, and carbide production is to increase greatly. Although the plant's raw materials situation is satisfactory, the procurement of steel cylinders is causing considerable difficulty, especially in view of the increased output of oxygen and acetylene under the Five-Year Plan.

At the end of 1950 a new oxygen-producing installation was put into operation at the Magdeburg Oxygen and Acetylene Plant. It will enable the plant to produce twice as much as formerly.

The principal product of the people-owned enterprise Organa, in Magdeburg (formerly Fahlberg-List), is sulfuric acid. In 1950, a production increase was achieved by modernizing the firing unit in the boilerhouse. With the putting into operation of a new furnace in 1951, the capacity of the sulfuric

acid installation is to be expanded by one third over the 1950 planned quota. Superphosphate production in 1951 is to be about 12 percent higher than in 1950. The production of sweetening /saccharine?/ is to be increased during the next few years by improving the crystallization unit. The plant also produces various pharmaceutical products, including a cough syrup containing ephedrine and codeine (ephedrine is produced in the plant), skin preparations, a bile preparation, salvarsan, and a blood coagulating substance, "Haemostyptikum-Falistypt."

The people-owned Persil Plant in Genthin has resumed production of the well-known washing compound "Persil." At the Leipzig Fair, the plant displayed 12 samples of industrial detergents, including three new products: "P 3 multum" for heavy industry, "P 3 zinnfest" (tin-proof) for the dairy industry, and "P 3 glanzklar" (sparkling clear) for the food-preparation industry.

The Ruba Plastics Rolling Mill in East Berlin, which is under trusteeship, is producing about 3,000 kilogram of Igelit sheet per day, in various colors and forms, for further processing by 30 other plants. The material is used to make handbags, tablecloths, and coats. Early in 1951, after a new calendering unit was put into operation, the production of Igelit floor coverings was started. It is also planned to produce combs and other items of daily use from Igelit. At present the plant is operating with two rolling units.

In 1950, the people-owned Sachsen Cellulose Staple Fiber Plant in Plauen produced 216,600 kilograms of cellulose staple fiber valued at over one million Deutsche marks (East) in excess of its planned quota.

The Schwarza Cellulose Staple Fiber Plant is now processing a material which takes a dull finish and is produced in the Soviet Zone. Previously, this material had to be imported from Leverkusen, because there was no such production in the Soviet Zone.

Fuel and Lubricants Industry (12 Apr 1951)

The production program of the people-owned Luetzkendorf Petroleum Plant in Krumpa includes high-grade lubricating oils, motor fuel, oxygen, kerosene, bitumen, vaseline, sealing compound, crude paraffin ("gatsch"), and other petroleum products.

The people-owned petroleum plant in Klaffenbach/Sachsen (formerly the Bremer Chemical Factory, Klaffenbach), which belongs to the VVB Kohlewerkstoffe (Carbon Products), is producing special gasoline, sulfur gasoline, and regenerated oils.

The people-owned Miestrol Plant in Mieste/Altmark has developed special new lubricating greases on the basis of paraffin oxydate, which is available in rather large quantities in the Soviet Zone. The plant has converted to large-scale production of these special greases. This means a certain alleviation of the bottleneck in high-grade lubricants which has existed in the Soviet Zone since 1945 because of the lack of fish oil, cottonseed oil, stearic acid, and tallow.

For this year's spring plowing, 51,000 tons of diesel fuel, 8,200 tons of gasoline, 3,800 tons of motor kerosene, and 3,645 tons of motor oil were made available. The diesel fuel which was distributed under the designation "motor fuel oil" was especially suited for the operation of tractors with surface-ignition engines (Lanz-Bulldog). It is officially maintained that there is an adequate supply on hand of this fuel and of the motor kerosene required for the

operation of carburetor-type tractors. However, it appears from various reports that in actual practice the fuel supply is still inadequate. For example, on the "Preparedness Day" early in March, one MAS (machine rental station) in Mecklenburg had only 5,000 kilograms of diesel fuel on hand, whereas 18,000 kilograms were needed for the entire spring plowing. Transmission lubricant was also urgently needed; the quantities on hand were inadequate.

The transportation system also reports a shortage of fuel. Various bus lines in the Soviet Zone have had to be shut down for this reason.

Certain rural areas are complaining about the quality of the kerosene issued for lighting purposes.

At present competitions are under way in the Soviet Zone to increase the collections of used oil. This is regenerated by the plants of the VVB Kohlewertstoffe to "completely usable new oil." The collection of used oil is handled by the retail distribution units of the German Fuel and Petroleum Center and of the Derunapht /German-Soviet Fuels Organization/. These units also handle the exchanging of used motor oil. In the appeals for this used-oil drive, it is emphasized that using these materials for lubrication purposes means destroying valuable materials.

Even Taegliche Rundschau had to admit, in a 4 March 1951 article on the development of heavy industry in the Soviet Zone, that two plants in the petroleum and carbon products industry had difficulties in January because of inadequate coal supplies, that another plant had suffered from inadequate supplies of raw materials, and that there still were not enough tank cars available.

Soviet Corporations in the Precision Mechanics and Optics Industry (24 April 1951)

Louis Schopper, Leipzig, now belongs to SAG Awtowelo; formerly it belonged to SAG Totschmasch. It produces equipment for testing steel and other metals, up to 200 tons maximum traction. The effectiveness of the 100-ton tensile-testing machine has been considerably increased as the result of a new supplemental construction device. With this so-called "Pulsator" it is now possible to make dynamic as well as statistical tests on materials in the Soviet Zone. The first 200-ton tensile-testing machine was completed at the plant at the end of 1950. In 1951, a 300-ton machine is to be developed.

The Ruhla Clock and Machinery Factory (formerly Thiel Brothers) produces, in addition to pocket watches, wrist watches, and alarm clocks, the following type of precision equipment for the construction of cutting and stamping tools and equipment: Type 14, a precision hoisting, filing, and sewing machine; Type 18, a precision banding, filing, and sawing machine; Type 32, a vertical mold and die planer; and Type 58, a duplex universal tool-milling machine. Production of the following new types has been started: Type 472, a jig drill; Type 59, a duplex universal tool-milling machine in a modern and improved model; and Type 652, a precision, high-speed, automatic lathe for long turning and screw cutting (6-millimeter opening), with increased spindle speed of 10,000 rpm.

The Suhl Precision Measuring Equipment Factory belongs to SAG Awtowelo. Its production program includes slide caliper rules, micrometers, rules, protractors, altimeters and tracer devices, dial gauges, internal measuring instruments, "mikrokatoren", "elektro-compar", and testing and sorting machines.

Precision Mechanics and Optics Industry (3 April 1951)

A small planetarium called "Tellurium" has been developed in the Zeiss Plant in Jena. It operates completely automatically and is designed for instruction purposes in schools. Series production has been started.

During 1950 a mirror microscope and a universal measuring microscope were also newly developed at the Zeiss Plant.

According to the chief director, Dr Schrade, the products of the Zeiss plant are intended primarily for export. For this reason, efforts must be made to adapt prices to world market prices and to observe reasonable delivery terms.

A letter to the SED newspaper Freiheit in Halle, dated 2 January 1951, had the following to say concerning the quality of the timepieces produced by the Thiel Brothers Clock and Machinery Factory (SAG) in Ruhla:

"We obtained pocket watches and wrist watches as premiums for our workers. The trademark "Thiel" on them indicated that they could be relied on. Unfortunately, however, at least 50 percent of these watches -- this is a cautious estimate -- found their way after a few weeks into desk drawers somewhere, because they either don't run any more or run so irregularly that they can no longer be called "timepieces." The workers ask themselves, and rightly, whether it is not a waste of time and material to make such watches at all. It is not necessary for the watches to have cases of precious metals, but one should certainly be able to demand that the works be reliable; and even though a watch may not last a lifetime, it should certainly last for several years. Such premiums do not do much to improve working morale."

The people-owned Precision Mechanics Plant in Freiberg/Sachsen produces mine compasses, mirror compasses, suspension theodolites for shaft measurements, spirit-level clinometers, and drum sextants for ocean-going ships. It is the only plant in the Soviet Zone which produces these nautical instruments. In 1950, production was converted to a light metals basis. Of the plant's total production, 5.7 percent is exported.

The people-owned Zeiss-Ikon plant in Dresden exports to 22 countries. It produces the Contax S camera, which has a prismatic telescopic attachment; the Ercona, a 6 x 9 camera with central shutter; and the Tenax miniature camera (24 x 24 with high-speed frame advance and central shutter). The picture-sound projector Vii o, with both water and air cooling, is also an important export item.

The Hermann Patzer Medical Instrument Plant in Hermsdorf/Thueringen has developed an improved fluoroscope which permits foreign bodies to be located with certainty, with the aid of X-rays, and to be removed by operation in daylight.

The Askania plant in Teltow produces, among other things, large ship's compasses, some of which are used to outfit the Soviet Zone's commercial fleet in Stralsund. The plant also has foreign orders, from Eastern bloc countries, for table compasses for small vessels.

The people-owned precision plant in Grevesmuehlen/Mecklenburg is producing ship parts for the people-owned shipyards.

Potash Mining (24 April 1951)

As is known, practically all potash mining in Thueringen, and therefore the most important part of allCentral German potash mining, belongs to SAG enterprises. All the SAF potash mining enterprises are now combined in the SAG Kali, for potassium fertilizers; the former SAG "Silvinit" and SAG "Kainit" have been dissolved.

The plants under SAG Kali produce the following:

Potassium fertilizers: Kainite (12-15 percent K_2O), Sylvinite-kainite (16-20 percent K_2O), kainite special grade (also known as Hederich-kainite, 12-15 percent K_2O), 30-percent potassium fertilizer (28-32 percent K_2O), 40-percent potassium fertilizer (38-42 percent K_2O), 50-percent potassium fertilizer (46-50 percent K_2O), Reform-Kali (26 percent K_2O, with at least 26 percent magnesium sulfate, 8 percent calcium in the form of calcium sulfate, and a maximum of 12.5 percent chlorine), potassium sulfate (48-52 percent K_2O, free of chlorides by industrial standards).

Potassium salts for industry: Potassium chloride up to 60 percent K_2O, potassium chloride over 60 percent K_2O, potassium sulfate for industrial purposes.

By-products of potassium salt production: Epsom salts, crystallized, pure by industrial standards, commercial grade; Epsom salts DAB 6, crystallized (medical magnesium sulfate, 96-98 percent, powdered); sodium sulfate, calcined, 96-98 percent, powdered; kieserite, at least 75 percent $MgSO_4$, dried and powdered; liquid bromine, technical, maximum 0.3 percent chlorine, commercial grade.

Rock salt: Table salt, ground to various degrees of fineness; sifted salt, degrees of fineness 0 and 1; packaged salt; industrial rock salt, various degrees of fineness.

Soviet Corporations in the Electrical Industry (24 April 1951)

During 1951 additional workshops are to be built at the Oberspree Cable Works in Berlin, because of the planned production increase under the Five-Year Plan.

The Mine-Lamp Plant in Zwickau (formerly Friemann and Wolf) produces the following items, among others: safety lamps for mines, with nickel-cadmium storage batteries; electric flashlights; gasoline safety lamps; acetylene lamps; fixtures and illuminating installations protected against firedamp, and explosions; lighting fixtures for mine locomotives; magnetoelectric /generator/ compressed air /activated/ lights; lights and accessories for external and internal lighting; loading stations and equipment for maintenance and repair of mine lamps; ventilating equipment and respirators; lead-acid storage batteries (small portable batteries, batteries for motor vehicles and electric cars); and nickel-cadmium storage batteries (train light batteries, batteries for electric vehicles, portable and stationary batteries).

The former Siemens and Halske in Zwoenitz/Erzgebirge is now operating as the SAG Zwoenitz Cable Plant.

The Sachsen Plant in Dresden-Niedersedlitz employs over 5,000 persons at present.

The Sachsen Plant in Radeberg, a branch of the Sachsen Plant in Dresden-Niedersedlitz, produces, among other things, radio parts, such as capacitors, resistors, and rectifiers, and tubes of all types.

Pharmaceutical Industry (3 April 1951)

During the period between 1945 and the currency reform a considerable number of small and even very small pharmaceutical enterprises sprang up in the Soviet Zone, but by the controlled allocation of raw materials to the

larger enterprises many of them were gradually liquidated. However, there was no radical elimination of these enterprises until the publication, on 19 June 1950, of the "First Index of Finished Pharmaceutical Products." This index reduced the number of enterprises producing pharmaceutical products from 527 to 199, and the number of products from about 5,000 to 1,692.

During the first postwar years the principal task of the pharmaceutical industry was the production of disinfectants and preparations for treating parasites and scabies, in order to prevent epidemics. At present, because of the great increase in the incidence of tuberculosis in the Soviet Zone, particular efforts are being made to develop antituberculosis drugs. The two preparations Tb I and PAS [paraamino-salicylic acid] have been developed. Along the line of vitamin research, the people-owned Jenapharm plant has developed Dekristol, a D_2 preparation. Also, various new preparations for treating heart and circulatory conditions have been produced; these include Deumacard (formerly called Cardizol), Pentedrin (formerly called Sympatol), and Carvitol (formerly called Coramin). There is still a shortage of hormone and organic preparations, of special preparations used to produce contrast for the taking of X-ray pictures, and of narcotics. Also, pharmacies lack the raw materials for making up prescriptions.

Three key plants in particular are to be set up to cover the planned increase in the production of pharmaceuticals under the Five-Year Plan: Jenapharm in Jena, Heyden and Madaus in Radebeul (these two formerly independent plants are apparently now combined), and Schering in Berlin-Adlershof. The Jenapharm plant is the principal producer of penicillin and preparations containing penicillin; it also produces other antibiotics, such as streptomycin and aureomycin, and a drug for the treatment of tuberculosis. Heyden and Madaus produces principally basic materials, such as salicylic acid, barbituric acid and their derivatives. Schering is said to produce principally hormone preparations and sulfonamides.

Early in 1951 the first pharmaceutical school in the Soviet Zone was set up in Leipzig-Grosszschocher. It is to start operations in the spring, training personnel for the pharmaceutical service.

The people-owned Chemidropha Plant in Chemnitz has resumed production of "Rutanol 20."

The people-owned enterprise Lactacida in Niederstrigis bei Doebeln produces preservatives, chemical products such as lactic acid and derivatives of it, and nutritive preparations. In 1950 the plant started production of three new preparations, Dextromalt, a nutritive sugar for infants and small children, Lactomalt, used in baking, and Lactylat, and ethyl ester of lactic acid, with the designation "G-pure," used as a solvent in the food and beverage industry and for the production of cosmetic products.

The people-owned Nitrite Factory in Berlin-Koepenick is the only plant in Berlin (and in the Soviet Zone) producing activated aluminum hydroxide to be used as the basis for the production of a serum for the treatment of foot-and-mouth disease and erysipelas. On the island of Riems the aluminum hydroxide and the active components produced in the people-owned Food and Preserved Food Plant in Berlin-Hohenschoenhausen are combined to produce the substance for injections.

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